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church work that had in the past been her special line, why not join the Guild of St. Barnabas for Nurses? I don't see how nurses can go on being good nurses without some such responsibility being brought intimately into their lives. One may think one can, and no one knows better than I how hard it is for nurses to be more than church members in name only, but why should they not reach out to the greater helps if they can be put within their grasp? The Guild would prove a great help. No matter in what lines our lives are cast, some time or other the need of a power of expression, which without practice will become a lost art, may be borne in upon us, and we will wish we had greater familiarity with religious expression, that we may be "ready helpers in time of trouble."

I contend that the education and training of a pupil nurse is not complete, if the whole scheme and network of the many nursing organizations has not been made the topic of a special set of talks: how in joining her alumnae, she next becomes a member of her county and state associations, which are of course affiliated with the American Nurses' Association; or even before that, that there is state examination for registration, for without that "R.N." where is one? The Red Cross and nearly every public position now require that seal upon one's standing. If one is engaged in public health nursing, she should not stay outside the large band of public health workers. Some day, almost out of sight, in the dim haze of years, one may aspire to be a superintendent, and become one of the National League of Nursing Education. May she then carry out the lessons she has learned by experience, if not in her training.

AN OLD GRADUATE.

New Jersey.

THE NECESSITY OF AN ECONOMICAL DIRECTOR IN HOSPITALS

DEAR EDITOR: From my observation of the management of hospitals in which I have lived as pupil, special nurse and patient, it has seemed to me that the economical side of the training is the most neglected part of the whole curriculum. This is noticeably so in the larger municipal hospitals. The practice of economy in every branch is necessary in order to bring about efficiency. Would it not, therefore, pay the larger institutions to employ a woman who has had special training along this line of work and who is especially adapted to it? for there are those who are naturally inclined to look after the ward supplies, not including the dietetic department, for all hospitals should have a competent and well-salaried dietitian. The supervisor of hospitals has her hands full, teaching and demonstrating at the bedside and looking after the welfare of the patients under her care. The young woman just entering the training school, as a pupil probably never before saw such a large amount of linen, toilet articles, sterile dressings, solutions, and in fact of everything in use in the wards, all supplied with no visible expense to her. Naturally she cannot be expected to use these articles with guarded care, for she sees no limit to the supply. The employees and patients are very apt to use the supplies extravagantly, if they are not carefully dispensed.

It is not possible for the pupil nurse, even after spending the required time for her nursing education, to conceive the value of these articles, beside the time and labor employed to prepare them for use, or to realize what immense quantities are needed where many patients are cared for. In the larger municipal hospitals, less care for economy is exercised, apparently, than in the smaller institutions. The municipal hospital is not supported by endowment, nor is it

self-supporting. The money comes from the city treasury, and is raised by taxation. It is not unusual to hear a remark like this: "O, well, use all you want. The city pays for it." Economics should be rigidly enforced and practiced, for the financial benefit of the municipality and hospital, and for the benefit of the pupil nurse's good training.

I doubt if many nurses know that the institution pays for every gallon of water used and that every electric light bulb costs, while burning, an average of one cent an hour. Where many are used for many hours it soon amounts to dollars. The majority of nurses graduated go out as special nurses. In the homes of their patients, whether rich or poor, there is already the expense of the doctor, the druggist, and the nurse, and in many cases the patient is the wage earner for the family, and the nurse is expected to be economical with the supplies provided for the patient's use. If the nurse has not learned economy in the hospital, she is lacking one of the most necessary requisites for a good nurse.

To the duties of an economical manager or supervisor, might be added that of looking after repairs which are always needed, such as broken or loose door latches, torn window shades, bed casters and other things too numerous to mention. Her duty should be to instruct the pupil nurses to report all such matters to her, and she in turn should report them to the proper department for repairs. In many instances she may be able to repair the article herself, with the assistance of the nurse, thus saving possible long delay, and teaching the pupil at the same time to be practical and self-reliant. Most superintendents find themselves handicapped financially, when wishing to install a new department, appliance or teacher. If economy were more rigidly taught and practiced, there would be more money at hand to meet the urgent needs ever present for the higher education of nurses in training. This is an age of progress, and the young women who are being enrolled in our training schools, are women who are seeking a higher education. The hospitals must be able to meet all the requirements of the higher education or they cannot hope to enroll and keep in training, such women. Thorough economy is one means of bringing this about.

M. E. L.

Ohio.

In response to telegraphic information received from Brig. Gen. C. A. Devol, General Manager of the American Red Cross, who is on the Texas-Mexican border, Red Cross headquarters sent to Consul Blocker at San Luis Potosi \$500 with which to import supplies from the United States for the benefit of the destitute. An American Citizen who had just arrived from San Luis Potosi, says General Devol, reports that starvation conditions exist there and that there is no food in the country.